

Santa Clara Counties, California. I congratulate her for this great achievement, and I am proud that she resides in my congressional district.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) owes much of its great success to Ms. Rust's ability to create partnerships between public agencies and private landowners to bring significant tracts of land under permanent protection. Highlights of POST's work include securing the preservation of the 7,357-acre Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch, the 1,623-acre Bair Island in Redwood City, and the 2,438-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro in San Jose. Also, POST played a significant role in the creation of Cowell Ranch State Beach. When it opened in 1995, it was the first state beach created in California since the early 1980s.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most impressive preservation efforts by Ms. Rust and POST was saving the Rancho Corral de Tierra from planned development. The 4,262-acre region contains awe-inspiring views, rich farmlands, important watersheds, miles of public trails, and diverse wildlife. Under Ms. Rust's leadership, POST was able to secure millions from private donors to purchase this beautiful land. Senator FEINSTEIN and I were inspired by the pristine grandeur of Rancho Corral de Tierra and introduced to include the ranch within the boundaries of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We were successful in that effort with the passage of Public Law 109-131 in this Congress.

Prior to her years of leadership at POST, Ms. Rust worked with the Sierra Club, and Yale and Stanford Universities. She has served on the boards of numerous local, state and national organizations, primarily in the fields of conservation and housing. Over the years, Ms. Rust has received several major awards, including the Times Mirror-Chevron National Conservationist of the Year Award, the League of California Voters Environmental Leadership Award, the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal, the Garden Club of America's top environmental honor, and the Jacqueline Kennedy Award from JFK University for her achievements in land conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Audrey Rust for her integral role in preserving the natural landscape of one of our nation's most beautiful regions. I am inspired by Ms. Rust's dedication to maintaining the pristine beauty of the San Francisco Peninsula.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered House Resolution 994, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Most of us were here in Washington on that fateful day, and after the attacks we knew our lives had

changed forever. Although I may not agree with every provision of this resolution, I voted for it to support our troops and to commemorate that tragic day.

House Resolution 994 is an effort to honor those thousands of innocent people who lost their lives that day as well as remember the bravery and sacrifice of the fire fighters, law enforcement officers and rescue personnel who worked feverishly to save them.

This resolution also recognizes the brave men and women of our armed services who responded with authority, precision and when needed, force, to root out the cowardly perpetrators and protect Americans and our interests both here and abroad.

Although we pause on September 11th to reflect and say thanks, on this day we must also renew our commitment to securing the homeland and protecting our values every day.

It is our responsibility to remove bureaucratic roadblocks and provide our Nation's first responders with the interoperable communications equipment they so sorely need.

We must seek the correct balance between securing our Nation and protecting the civil rights that serve as the basis of our enduring democracy.

And we must honor our commitment with continued support of our troops overseas.

It seems like only yesterday when this Nation joined together in recognition that the forces that divide us from one another can never overcome the transcendent unity we have as Americans.

Five years ago Members of Congress stood shoulder to shoulder on the step of this Capitol and pledged to work together to remember this day and honor the sacrifice of the fallen.

This is a pledge we should remember every day and not just once a year.

SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ELIMI-
NATING SUFFERING AND DEATH
DUE TO CANCER BY THE YEAR
2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 210, to support the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by 2015.

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diagnoses a person can get. Every one of us has been affected by cancer, whether personally or through the experience of a family member or loved one.

In fact, cancer affects one out of every two men and one out of every three women in this country. According to the American Cancer Society, 1.3 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year, with 1,500 Americans dying from cancer every single day.

While the statistics are still staggering, the promise of a cure is closer than we had ever imagined. Thanks to the commitment of the Federal Government and our research institutions, cancer rates declined by nearly 10 percent in the 1990s, and new treatments are being developed every day.

Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, the former Director of the National Cancer Institute, set a

goal for the country to eliminate suffering and death due to cancer by 2015. In my hometown of Houston, we were proud to have Dr. von Eschenbach serve at MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the top cancer centers in the country in terms of both research and patient care. With all of his experience as a leader in the field of cancer research, if Dr. von Eschenbach thinks we can achieve this goal, I am confident that our hope for a cure is within reach.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SHAW, for introducing this important resolution and encourage my colleagues to join me in support of it.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL CUMMINGS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Cummings a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 312, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Cummings for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ARMENIA'S INDEPEND-
ENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence. Armenia's independence was first recognized on September 21, 1991, marking it as one of the first nations to declare its independence from the former Soviet Union. Building upon the foundations of the first Armenian Republic of 1918, today's Armenian Government has, in the years since independence, strengthened democracy and the rule of law, promoted free-market reforms, and sought a just and lasting peace in the region.

Since declaring independence from the former Soviet Union, Armenia emerged from its Soviet-styled centrally planned economy, based on industry and highly dependent on outside resources, to an economy developing and relying on new sectors, such as precious stone processing and jewelry making, information and communication technology, and even tourism.

With its steady economic progress, Armenia has rightfully earned increasing support from

international institutions. As the 2005 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index chart, where Armenia ranked 88th out of 158th, shows, Armenia has earned this support. Furthermore, according to the 2005 U.N. Human Development Report, Armenia has a Human Development Index of 83 out of 177, and ranks the highest among the Transcaucasian republics. Finally, in recognizing the country's continuing efforts to move away from its Soviet past, it cannot be overlooked that in this year's Index of Economic Freedom, Armenia ranked 27th best, tied with Japan and ahead of countries like Norway, Spain, Portugal and Italy. The rank puts Armenia in the category of "Mostly Free" countries, making it the most economically free state in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

No recognition of Armenia would be complete without acknowledging the fantastic contributions of the Armenian diaspora living here in America. It is estimated that the Armenian community in the United States numbers in the hundreds of thousands and represents the largest Armenian community in the world outside Armenia. In Michigan, my hometown of Detroit was itself one of the great historical centers where Armenians set down roots after they came to our great Nation. Armenian-Americans have also made contributions to every aspect of American life. Among the most notable have been William Saroyan, Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author; Howard Kazanjian, producer of *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; Raffi, children's singer and songwriter; System of a Down, multi-platinum alternative/metal group; Steve Zallian, Academy Award winning screenwriter of *Schindler's List*; Ray Damadian, inventor of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and, of course, Andre Agassi, professional tennis player.

However, our relationship with Armenia has certainly been by no means a one-way street. Our Nation's Armenian diaspora has provided the greatest number of high ranking officials in the new republic: the young Minister of Foreign Affairs, Raffi Hovannissian, a lawyer and political scientist, whose father, Richard, professor of Armenian history at UCLA, is the foremost authority on the first republic; the minister of energy, Sebu Tashjian, also from Los Angeles; Jirair Libaridian, historian and former director of the Zoryan Institute, who is a personal advisor to President Levon Ter Petrosian; and Mathew Der Manueelian, a Boston lawyer with a high post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I'll conclude my statement by wishing Armenia and Armenian-Americans a happy independence day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
MANRESA JESUIT RETREAT
HOUSE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House as it celebrates its eightieth year of service to Oakland County.

Founded by a group of laymen in 1926, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has grown and

evolved over the years to become a center for thousands of people to get away to a quiet place for meetings, seminars, workshops, and worship.

In its beginnings, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House struggled to secure the funds to fully provide food service and other amenities to its guests. However, through perseverance and strong leadership, Manresa has become a fixture in the community, providing thousands of people with a place to worship, reflect, learn, and work in a nurturing atmosphere. Its board of directors has guided the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House's ministry to the community, including the establishment of the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality which trains both laymen and ordained people of many denominations for ministry in their communities.

September 23, 2006 will mark the eightieth anniversary of the first retreat ever held at the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, located on the thirty-nine acre "Deepdale Estate" on the corner of Woodward and Quarton Road in Bloomfield Hills. At the time of its establishment as the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, this area was part of the expanding metro Detroit area. As the area grew, so did Manresa with a series of additions and renovations that have enlarged the original capacity of retreat guests from 23 to its current capacity of 78.

The Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has provided a foundation upon which thousands of metro Detroiters have grown, both personally and spiritually. I am proud to recognize its importance in forging the character of the community as we celebrate the eightieth anniversary of Manresa's inaugural retreat.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN MALCOLM
"MIKE" ALLEN

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen, former Mayor of Northville, Michigan, and mourn his passing at the age of 91.

For more than nine decades, Mike served the people of the City of Northville, where we served as its Mayor from 1958–1978. Born on October 3, 1914, he left his world on September 9, 2006. In his magnificent life, Mike embodied the virtues of honesty and duty—and good old fashioned common sense—for which he was widely admired and never equaled. (Though, admittedly, few tried to emulate his love of suspenders!)

Mike is survived by his wife, Betty; his children, Jim, Sharon, and Patricia; and his siblings, Doris, Naomi, Jerome, Flora, and Hoy. He will be remembered for his witty sense of humor, unfaltering dependability, and endearing concern for others. Mike touched everyone he met; and, by his absence, we are all diminished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen for his lifetime of dedication and service to his fellow human beings.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE
MELANCON WELCOMES TO THE
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, Today I welcome President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, there was great concern about the political and economic future of the former Soviet republics. The world wondered whether these nations would join democratically developed nations, and whether they would be able to overcome the communist ideology that had been imposed on them for so long. Furthermore, as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Empire, nuclear weapons were scattered, uncontrolled and therefore even more dangerous. The colossal number of nuclear weapons was a real threat to peace and the possibility loomed of bloody territorial and international conflict.

Unfortunately, in some cases our concerns were valid. For many of these emerging states, the burden of building a stable, flourishing and democratic society appeared to be a difficult task. Not everyone could handle this historic mission. The world witnessed several conflicts, sometimes bloody, in the former Soviet bloc, which not only destabilized the region, but also caused economic stagnation.

All indicators showed that Kazakhstan, with its enormous territory, vast natural resources and multinational and multiethnic population, should have been the epicenter of instability. But instead, Kazakhstan was one of only a few former Soviet states that avoided bloodshed. Kazakhstan withstood the pressure of reform and today has made staggering economic and political progress, largely due to President Nazarbayev's vision and leadership.

President Nazarbayev's stewardship of Kazakhstan's vast natural and strategic resources has given the world confidence in his government. His commitment to harmonize Kazakhstan's political and business climate with Western standards has allowed Kazakhstan to assume a leadership role among the former Soviet states of Central Asia. And Kazakhstan has risen up as a model in disarmament and nonproliferation and should be applauded by all nations of the world.

In November of last year I visited Kazakhstan. The warm and hospitable Kazakh people reminded me of the people from my own home state of Louisiana. During that trip, I was proud to be one of the first leaders to congratulate President Nazarbayev on his reelection. I also met with the elected leaders of the legislative and executive branches of government and of several opposition parties. I am glad to report that democracy in Kazakhstan is growing.

If you have never seen Kazakhstan's capitol city, Astana, you must. The brand new city rises up out of the Steppes, with cranes and skyscrapers studding the horizon. Astana is a truly awesome testament to the will of the Kazakh people to move into the future. It is a symbol of the progress Kazakhstan has made from Soviet dominance to independence.